

1, 9, 12 and 13. Claims 1, 9 and 13 have been amended as per the Examiner's suggestions; entry and allowance of these amended claims is respectfully requested.

With respect to Claim 12, the Examiner asserted the expression "mechanically reducing" therein was not supported by the specification. The instant application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/381,828 filed on March 16, 1995, now abandoned, which in turn, was filed and accepted under 35 U.S.C. 371 of application PCT/EP93/02029, filed on July 29, 1993.

The PCT application, as originally filed, included Claim 12, which read as follows:

12. Use according to claim 1, characterised in that the porous material is obtained by the dissolving of a polymer in a solvent with heating, the cooling of the solution, and the mechanical diminution of the solidified mass if so desired.

The specification of the present application has been amended to expressly include the concept of mechanical diminution of the solidified mass, as originally disclosed in the PCT application, and Claim 12 herein has been amended accordingly to recite the mechanical diminution of the solidified mass. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit no new matter has been added by the amendment to the specification and Claim 12 herein; entry of the foregoing amendments and allowance of amended Claim 12 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-13 is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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**AMENDED CLAIMS MARKED TO SHOW CHANGERS**

1. (Twice Amended) A method for the extraction of hydrophobic constituents from an aqueous solution, [involving] comprising the steps of:

a. contacting said solution with a porous, dimensionally stable granular or powdery material, of which the pores have a size of from 0.1 to 50  $\mu\text{m}$  and contain [a] an immobilized hydrophobic substance with affinity for the hydrophobic constituents to be extracted, which granular or powdery material has a particle size of from 0.1 to 10 mm, and is wetted more readily by the hydrophobic substance immobilized in the pores than by the aqueous solution to be treated, and

b. regenerating the product of step a), essentially without the granular or powdery material being freed from the hydrophobic substance, by removal of the hydrophobic constituents.

9. (Amended) A method according to claim [1] 8, wherein the immobilized glycerol ester is soybean oil and/or castor oil.

12. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the porous material was obtained by dissolving a polymer in a solvent with heating, cooling the solution to obtain a solidified mass, and [mechanically reducing] the mechanical diminution of the solidified mass.

13. (Amended) A method according to claim [1] 12, wherein the polymer is polypropylene and the solvent is soybean oil and/or castor oil.